

know, all too well, the terrible impact of exploding nuclear weapons over the Nevada desert. Among other consequences, these tests in the 1950's exposed millions of Americans to large amounts of radioactive Iodine-131, which accumulates in the thyroid gland and has been linked to thyroid cancer. "Hot Spots," where the Iodine-131 fallout was the greatest, were identified by a National Cancer Institute report as receiving 5-16 rads of Iodine-131. The "Hot Spots" included many areas far away from Nevada, including New York, Massachusetts and Iowa. Outside reviewers have shown that the 5-16 rad level is only an average, with many people having received much higher exposure levels, especially those who were children at the time.

To put that in perspective, federal standards for nuclear power plants require that protective action be taken for 15 rads. To further understand the enormity of the potential exposure, consider this: 150 million curies of Iodine-131 were released by the above ground nuclear weapons testing in the United States, about three times more than from the Chernobyl nuclear power plant disaster in the former Soviet Union.

It is all too clear that outlawing above-ground tests were in the interest of our Nation. I strongly believe that banning all nuclear tests is also in our interests.

October also marked some key steps the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty or CTBT. On October 2, 1992, President Bush signed into law the U.S. moratorium on all nuclear tests. The moratorium was internationalized when, just a few year later, on September 24, 1996, a second step was taken—the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, or CTBT, was opened for signature. The United States was the first to sign this landmark treaty.

Mr. President, a little more than a year ago, President Clinton took a third important step in abolishing nuclear weapons tests by transmitting the CTBT to the United States Senate for ratification. Unfortunately, the Senate has yet to take the additional step of ratifying the CTBT. I am hopeful that we in the Senate will debate and vote on ratification of the Treaty, and continue the momentum toward the important goal of a worldwide ban on nuclear weapons testing.

Many believed we had conquered the dangerous specter of nuclear war after the Cold War came to an end and many former Soviet states became our allies. Unfortunately, recent developments in South Asia remind us that we need to be vigilant in our cooperative international efforts to reduce the dangers of nuclear weapons.

It is especially important that the Senate act before the September 1999 deadline for ratification by 44 countries. If the United States fails to ratify the CTBT, then we will not have a voice in the special international conference which will negotiate how to ac-

celerate the treaty into force. Yet, as a signatory, we will still be bound by its provisions.

The CTBT is a major milestone in the effort to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons. It would establish a permanent ban on all nuclear explosions in all environments for any purpose. Its "zero-yield" prohibition on nuclear tests would help to halt the development and deployment of new nuclear weapons. The Treaty would also establish a far-reaching verification regime that includes a global network of sophisticated seismic, hydro-acoustic and radionuclide monitoring stations, as well as on-site inspection of test sites to deter and detect violations.

It is vital to our national security for the nuclear arms race to come to an end, and the American people recognize this. In a recent poll commissioned by the Coalition to Reduce Nuclear dangers, nearly 50 percent of voters supported "eliminating nuclear weapons worldwide" and an additional third support "reducing the number of nuclear weapons worldwide". In addition, a 1997 poll by the Mellman Group for the Henry J. Stimson Center found that 69 percent of voters believe the goal of the United States should be to reduce or eliminate nuclear weapons.

It is heartening to know that the American people understand the risks of a world with nuclear weapons. It is now time for policymakers to recognize this as well. There is no better way to honor the hard work and dedication of those who developed the LTBT and the CTBT than for the U.S. Senate to immediately ratify the CTBT. Our Nation's role as the world's only remaining superpower demands no less.●

#### AWARD OF EXCELLENCE FOR DR. LINDA ERWIN

● Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize Dr. Linda Erwin of Portland, Oregon, for her career as both a gifted medical professional and as a tireless and dedicated educator. As one of the first healthcare professionals in the Pacific Northwest to recognize that gun violence is a public health issue, Dr. Erwin has just been awarded the National Crime Prevention Council's Ameritech Award of Excellence in Crime Prevention. She is one of only seven people throughout the Nation to receive this honor.

Dr. Erwin is currently the Assistant Director of Trauma Services at Legacy Emanuel Hospital, and it was through her experiences as a trauma surgeon that she first became aware of the need for increased education about violence—especially gun violence. Dr. Erwin has taken advantage of her position, education, and talents to reach beyond the trauma room to educate young people throughout the Pacific Northwest.

While working in England for two years, Dr. Erwin treated a total of two patients for gunshot wounds. Upon re-

turning to Portland, she was struck by the high numbers of gunshot wound patients being treated each year at Emanuel Hospital. After speaking with victims and their families and friends, she realized that most young people did not recognize or understand the consequences of their risky behavior. Since then, Dr. Erwin has worked as a leading advocate for gun violence prevention, intervention and education.

One of the keys to Dr. Erwin's success has been her ability to create partnerships. Many of the programs that she has initiated bring together and combine the efforts of the medical, legal, law enforcement, and education communities as well as non-profit organizations and committed volunteers.

Dr. Erwin has successfully spread her message throughout the Portland community with such programs as "Save Our Youth," "Safe Schools Safe Lives," "Firearms as a Public Health Crisis" and "American Epidemic Programs." She has also lectured throughout the Pacific Northwest, taking her educational presentations to peer and youth groups throughout the states of Oregon, Washington, and Idaho.

Dr. Linda Erwin is an outstanding example of a professional who has given her time, resources, and knowledge to the community for the betterment of all. For these reasons, Dr. Erwin has received Ameritech's Award of Excellence in Crime Prevention. I would like to thank her on behalf of all those whose lives she lives she has touched.

#### NATIONAL FIRE PREVENTION WEEK

● Mr. SARBANES. Mr. President, this week the nation joins in marking National Fire Prevention Week, a time set aside not only to remember those who were injured and those who tragically lost their lives due to fire, but also to acknowledge the heroic efforts of those men and women who work so hard to prevent and protect us against such tragedies.

Every year, more than 5,000 Americans die in fires and another 25,000 sustain fire-related injuries. The majority of these fires, around 80%, occur in the home. Fortunately, many of these deaths and injuries can be prevented by simply planning ahead.

The most important function of National Fire Prevention Week is that of raising awareness about the dangers of fire and the relatively simple steps we can take to prevent fire-related tragedies.

The theme of this year's National Fire Prevention Week, "Fire Drills: The Great Escape," serves to encourage the public to practice and plan a home escape plan. This involves a number of steps and I want to touch on them briefly. According to officials at the United States Fire Administration (USFA), the first step in developing a home escape plan is the installation of smoke alarms on every floor. It is estimated that working smoke alarms can